

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 3 and 5 are amended.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited and an early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited. In addition, reconsideration of the rejections in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

I. **THE CLAIMS DEFINE PATENTABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The February 7, 2002 Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Paik et al. (U.S. Application No. 6,076,088). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For purposes of brevity, the June 7, 2002 response to the February 7, 2002 Office Action is incorporated by reference into this Preliminary Amendment.

Furthermore, claims 3 and 5 have been amended to further emphasize the distinctions between the present invention over Paik et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,076,088).

Paik et al. discloses an information extraction system and method using concept-relation-concept (CRC) tuples. Paik et al. fails to disclose the processing of positional information, such as destination-of-travel data.

In the present invention, since the target of search is destination-of-travel data, the use of an action (verb) category (i.e., what a user would like to do at the destination) is another distinguishing feature of the present invention over the applied art.

Also, the Applicant would like the Examiner to note that the data search performed by the present invention, and as specifically claimed in amended claims 3 and 5, is very different from the mere mention in Paik et al. (col. 3 and col. 6) of the term "phrasal verb". Paik et al. does not disclose the usage of agents of action in conjunction with destination-of-travel data as claimed in the Applicant's present invention.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact John L. Ciccozzi, Reg. No. 48,984, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to schedule an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant has respectfully petitioned for a two (2) month extension of time with the Continued Prosecution Application Transmittal filed herewith, an extension of one (1) month having been previously requested and paid for on June 7, 2002 with the filing of the Response, in order to establish co-pendency with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.


Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A[n] destination-of-travel object data search method comprising the steps of:

retrieving one or a plurality of search words from a search criterion input in the form of a sentence of a natural language by analyzing the search criterion in accordance with a grammar of the natural language;

conducting a search relative to a plurality of sentence element categories associated with a plurality of destination-of-travel object data items, based on a single search word or a plurality of search words;

retrieving the destination-of-travel object data associated with the attribute word that matches a single search word or a plurality of search words and outputting the destination-of-travel object data thus retrieved; and

using at least a search word having an agent of action category, a search word having an action category and a search word having an object of action category.

5. (Amended) A computer-readable recording medium [stores] storing data according to a relational database structure, wherein tuples each comprising a[n] destination-of-travel object data item and a plurality of attribute words categorized according to sentence elements of a natural language are stored and tuples are filtered for attribute relations based on the grammatical structure of the natural language.